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Committee on Committees

Senator Lesil McGuire

Sponsor Statement

SB 183

"An Act extending the termination date of the emerging energy technology fund and grant program."

The Alaska Sustainable Energy Act of 2010 established the Emerging Energy Technology Fund (EETF). The Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) administers the fund and the Alaska Center for Energy and Power (ACEP) performs data collection. Together with a matching grant from the Denali Commission, the fund made \$8.9 million available to develop emerging energy technologies in Alaska.

EETF grants are for demonstration projects of technologies that have a reasonable expectation of becoming commercially viable within five years. An EETF technology is one that promotes, enhances, or expands the diversity of available energy supply sources or means of transmission, increases energy efficiency, or reduces negative energy-related environmental effects. Energy technologies can include technologies related to renewable sources of energy, conservation of energy, enabling technologies, efficient and effective use of hydrocarbons and integrated systems. Projects from Round 1 saw an impressive diversity. Priority is given to Alaska businesses, utilities, non-profits, tribal or local governments or other organizations.

Projects can either:

- Test emerging energy technologies or methods of conserving energy
- Improve an existing technology
- Deploy an existing technology that has not previously been demonstrated in the state.

The EETF is not an angel fund, but rather an opportunity for the state of Alaska to support projects that are near commercialization and that can help communities who are facing increasing energy costs. This is not a fund for projects that are in the research and development phase, but a program that creates synergy with the business community and the State of Alaska to create an environment for economic growth.

It is for these reasons that I have introduced SB 183 with the sole intention of extending the program which still has considerable funding available under the original appropriation and the Denali Commission's generous match.